

Indiana Repeater Council

November, 1991

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL (ANNUAL MEETING) WILL BE AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, FROM 1300 TO 1500, AT THE FORT WAYNE HAMEST, HELD AT THE MEMORIAL COLISEUM, FORT WAYNE. The Allen County Memorial Coliseum is on Route 30. Exit 169 at Exit 112 and then turn left onto Coliseum Blvd. (US 30).

The meeting agenda will be as follows:

- Call to order
- Roll Call of Member Organizations
- Council Approval of new members
- Acceptance of Minutes of the July Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Correspondence
- Committee Reports
- Old Business - Modifications of Bandplans
- New Business
- Good of the Council
- Nomination and Election of Officers for 1992
- Announcement of next meeting
- Adjournment

The Council gets its strength from the many member organizations who support our efforts to continue the coordination efforts of our State. If you are a member who needs to renew the Membership (please note the expiration date on your mailing label), an application is enclosed. If you are not presently a member please consider joining us. The \$8.00 annual dues are used exclusively for coordination efforts and newsletters (postage). Our dues have not raised since we first organized in 1972! Our present paid membership is about 75 organizations. This Newsletter goes to all known system sponsors/trustees in our State.

Included in this mailing also is a form for updating the appropriate Coordinator regarding your repeater system. It is important that we receive updates regularly (yearly) to confirm that you are still on the air, and complying with the parameters under which the system was originally coordinated. In the event that you had to relocate your system (very near the original site - 5 miles maximum), changed the height of your antenna (only minimum changes allowed), or upgraded your transmitter and changed power as a result (up or down), the Coordinator needs to update his database, and perhaps issue a new coordination based upon the new conditions. Please take the time to fill in the form and send it to the appropriate Coordinator listed below. If you have not updated within the last three years it is imperative that you give us updated information.

Send the completed System Survey/Update to:

6 meters - Dave Crockett, WA9ZCE	PO Box 68104	Indianapolis	46268
2 Meters - Walt Breining, N9WB	RR#1	Spiceland	47385
220 MHz. - Marty Hensley, KA9PCT	1506 S. Parker Dr.	Evansville	47714
450 MHz. - Rick Viehe, KM9E	4817 Trump Dr.	Indianapolis	46236
900 UP - Ron Pogue, KD9GB	210 Westminster Dr.	Noblesville	46060

Our new 440 MHz. Coordinator is Rick Viehe, KM9E, from Indianapolis. As we announced earlier Dick Shelton was resigning from that assignment after several excellent years of contribution. Dick left Rick with an excellently organized database and a band in good shape. Thanks not only to Dick for his leadership, but to the 440 MHz. system sponsors for being responsive to requests for updates and helpful in solving problems. Rick has several years experience on this band presently operating the 443.250 system in Lawrence. He will be happy to work with you in matters related to this band. Remember that all requests for coordinations must be in written form for documentation.

We need to discuss Bandplans (again). As you recall I mentioned in the last Newsletter and at the Indy Hamfest meeting that as a result of activities on 220, growth in Packet, and other activities throughout the US we needed to reevaluate our Bandplans and perhaps update them to meet today's (and the future) needs. I requested input from everyone, especially regarding 6 meters, 220, 440 (ATV), and packet. THE ONLY feedback we have received is from the IDEA Packet group who are pushing ahead with activities guided by MACC recommendations for the 220 band and what our neighboring States are already doing. Our Coordinators are evaluating what other States area planning and will have recommendations to present at our upcoming meeting. It appears that the following proposals (in general right now) are going to be made:

6 METERS - ARRL Bandplan not desired. Leave splits at 1 MHz. with possible 500 KHz. splits in the 51-52 MHz. segment.

2 METERS - No changes anticipated.

220 MHz. - MACC adopted bandplan modified to provide for 220 links:

222.000 - 222.150	Weak Signal: EME, CW, SSB
.050 - .060	Bacons
.100 - .150	Noise Weak Signal
222.160 - 222.310	Control Links (8 Channels)
222.320 - 223.380	Repeater Inputs (54 existing channels)
223.400 - 223.750	Packet
.500	National Calling Frequency - Simplex FM
223.760 - 223.900	FM Simplex (8 Channels)
223.920 - 224.980	Repeater Outputs (54 Existing channels)

440 MHz. - Packet activity currently allocated on 430.0-431.0 and 445.000-445.125. Interest developing in duplex activity at 10MHz. spacing from the 430 section, either direction (affecting ATV activity.) No interest in further encroaching upon auxiliary, link, & control frequencies in the 445.150-446.975 MHz. segment. ATV interests want additional opportunities for multiple repeaters (where?). Decreasing spacing of UHF systems (adjacent channel) possible to 5 miles at 25KHz. adjacent, 1 mile at 50 KHz.?

IRC

PO Box 615 Anderson, IN 46015

IRC

The impact of Packet communications must be carefully considered as we relook our Bandplan. The potential for high volume message handling is tremendous, and new techniques such as high baud rates (meaning wide bandwidths) are going to come about soon. The ARRL is revising the National Traffic System to more effectively utilize packet, and the State Emergency Management Agency is (along with many local groups) studying how packet can be most effectively utilized. We've already had our first casualty on 220 as a result of the loss of the lower two MHz. where the Packet activity formerly was located. Recently developed nationwide links moved to 223.66, which is a control frequency for an established repeater in our State. Unfortunately the frequency is nearly unusable now due to continuous packet data transfer which has to occur to link many Indiana BBS's with our neighboring State Networks. Our Coordinator will be working with our FM repeater friends to find a new allocation free of interference (if that is possible nowadays).

It is also appropriate to review the purpose of our Council and that of the IDEA group. The Indiana Repeater Council is established to COORDINATE REPEATER SYSTEMS in the State of Indiana in accordance with the Part 97 requirements and the Bandplans established by the Council Membership over the years. We have interpreted that to mean FM Repeaters, and ATV repeaters in Indiana (many States don't coordinate ATV repeaters at all). We are also the "keeper of the Bandplan" for each band as a means of trying to protect the interests of all Amateurs and to distribute that Plan. We were at one time a source of technical expertise that was necessary to even get a repeater on the air (and keep it there). IDEA was formed to further the interests of Packet users and to develop the Statewide (and interface with other States) networks. They have since attempted to coordinate the Packet BBS's, Digi's, etc. on their limited frequencies. We work together to further the interests of both groups and attempt to minimize conflicts in utilizing the limited spectrum. Both our plans are influenced (and sometimes forced) by plans established and/or utilized by our neighboring States. Additionally IDEA must input their Packet System Listings to the ARRL through our recognized Repeater Council (ARRL ruling). The IRC does not try to tell IDEA how to run their show and vice-versa. We do talk and meet to try to maintain a Bandplan for the State that makes sense.

Another issue is that of link and control frequencies for repeaters. We do not Coordinate those frequencies. We do try to keep a listing of any frequency/user/location that we are made aware of so that if anyone does ask the Coordinator for a suggestion (a wise move indeed) he can suggest frequencies for the area in question to stay away from. We also try to insist that the Bandplan be adhered to. However, in times past many sponsors preferred to keep their link and control frequencies secret. The result is that the Coordinator records (which are kept strictly confidential) are incomplete. Also the band segments in which these frequencies were established in some cases many years ago, may now be more effectively utilized in other manners. The Council feels that it is in everyone's best interests for the Coordinator to know where these frequencies are, but we're very limited in our ability to rectify current and future conflicts on frequencies used perhaps a few seconds or minutes a day. We will help in any way we can.

I asked in the last Newsletter for input from the ATV community regarding issues related to them. I received only one comment. We have traditionally left ATV activities to the users and the very active ATV Club in Indianapolis. ATV'ers have a disproportionately large band allocation on 440 compared to their activity and numbers, but also have special needs as a result of the mode of transmission. They now want an additional repeater pair for the Central Indiana area that is simply not available. The Council feels that our ability to impact the matter is limited to administering the "coordinated repeater" list in accordance with the Council accepted standards for coordination. If the ATV'ers as a group decide that a different set of standards should be applied to their mode (spacing between systems other than 125 miles for instance) the Council Coordinator(s) will certainly respect their wishes. We cannot, however, negatively impact the existing FM repeater systems that service many more people many more hours per week. The issue of single frequency ATV transmitters, technical standards associated with ATV, and the use of other than 440 (many States have only an output frequency on 440, with inputs on other bands for repeaters) must be left to them.

We are still looking for a "Few Good Men (or women)" to assume responsibilities in the Council. Our Two Meter Coordinator (Walt, N9WB) has indicated a desire to step down after ten years of service if a person with the appropriate qualifications wishes to take over (not such a bad job now since there aren't any new spaces for systems, it's just a maintenance of records, communications with neighboring States, and look for potential resolution of problems). Computers make the job much easier than we had it even 10 years ago. Your Chairman, after three years (this time) in office has found that additional work responsibilities has taken up most of the time formerly allocated to Council activities. I would welcome new blood to continue the buildup of the IRC. If you would be willing to serve the Indiana Amateur Community in a very personally rewarding way, please speak up immediately. Requirements should include an understanding of repeater coordination goals and procedures, some computer expertise (doesn't take much thank goodness), and a willingness to communicate (the hardest part for we communicators!).

I hope that you will make an extra effort to attend the meeting at the Fort Wayne Hamfest. The Hamfest is an excellent one, the facility, parking, etc. is outstanding, and we certainly need your input to make the Council even more successful. Each of the Coordinators who can attend will discuss their band, and you will have an opportunity to discuss issues first hand with them. By the way, the Hamfest ticket charge is \$5.00 at the door and is valid both days (the Hamfest is Saturday and Sunday, our meeting is on SUNDAY).

We will be accepting dues (\$8.00) too.

73,

Steve

Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Chairman

MINUTES OF THE SUMMER COUNCIL MEETING, JULY 13, 1991
13:00 - 14:30 INDIANAPOLIS HAMFEST FORUM BUILDING

The Council was welcomed and the Chairman introduced by Hamfest Committee Member Mike Head, WB9ZQE at 1300.

The Chairman, Steve Riley, WA9CWE, called the meeting to order and thanked the Hamfest Committee for the opportunity to meet here again this year. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman called the role of the membership which as of July 12 was 70 Member Organizations. 16 Organizations reported representatives present (see attachment). He also asked for any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the November, 1990 meeting that were published in the Newsletter. No comments were made, so they stand approved as published. An attendance sheet was circulated (see attachment).

The Secretary/Treasurer was unable to attend, so the Chairman reported for him the following: Checking Account Balance as of the last meeting \$986.41; Disbursements - to Steve Riley for Stamps for Newsletters, mailing to Legislators and for Coordinators \$193.00, Membership Dues to MACC \$75.00 for a total Disbursement of \$268.00. Income from Dues of \$520.00. New Checking balance as of 7-13-91 is \$1238.41. There were no questions or comments so the report was accepted.

The Chairman called for the seating of six new Member Organizations who had submitted applications since the last meeting. They were: Hendricks Amateur Radio Community, Delaware ARS, Boone Co. Repeater Asn., Bt-County Radio Amateurs, Indiana digital Experimenter Asn., Green County Amateur Repeater Asn. The Membership approved the memberships of these organizations unanimously.

Repeater Coordinator Reports:

Dave Crockett, WA9ZCE, 6 Meters - There is plenty of space available on 6 meters. There have been 2 or 3 requests for assignments that he is working on. He is going to withdraw 1 that was issued but hasn't been put on in two years. He hasn't acted sooner because there isn't pressure on this band for space. With regard to which Bandplan to adopt he has no opinion yet. Michigan has adopted the California Plan with 500KHz. spacing. He's not in favor of Indiana doing that. Ohio is in turmoil on the issue. He hasn't heard from our other neighbors. He hopes to get additional inputs and have a recommendation by the November meeting.

Walt Breining, N9WB, 2 Meters - The band is real full and there is not much hope for finding an available frequency that meets the coordination requirements in Indiana. He continues to try to fit in new requests, and to move systems where problems develop, but there have been few successes. Walt has been recommending to those who apply to consider a 440 repeater and then link it to an existing 2 meter one. If you do apply for a frequency check it out carefully, monitor and use all available resources. Walt is using the Decoordination Policy adopted by the Council on two meters: If the repeater goes off the air for more than 60 days it is subject to decoordination. If you notify the appropriate coordinator of the reason for the delay he will work with you. If he hears nothing he can start the process. This is the only way to open up space for new repeater sponsors. Other bands can be a bit more lenient.

Each sponsor should do all possible to keep his system on the air, even if it has to be on a temporary site, low antenna, etc. Walt continues to be behind on paperwork and is trying to catch up.

Marty Hensley, KA9PCT, 220 MHz. - Marty was unable to attend so the Chairman reported that with the loss of spectrum on August 28, we won't have to move any repeaters, but some areas of the State (North and Northwest) will be full due to adjacent State activity.

Dick Shelton, N6RS, 440 MHz. - In 1990 Dick processed 20 Coordinations, and so far in '91 he's processed 3 new and 3 modifications. There was one that was approved and was returned when the sponsor changed his mind. In the Indianapolis area a base station with a beam can get into 40-45 repeaters on 440. the Northwest end of the State is hard to coordinate due to activity in IL, MI, and Ohio. The Fort Wayne area is a problem too.

Ron Pogue, KD9QB, 900 & 1200 MHz. - There are 4 systems active on these bands. WB9YAJ has under construction a 900 MHz ATV repeater in the Indianapolis area. We need to remember that Amateur Radio is a secondary user on this band and the truck tracking activity may come to Indiana in '94. We still have opportunities on this band. On 1200 MHz K9LPW is on in Indianapolis on 1292/1272 and WF9Q in south Whitley is on 1291.5/1271.5. Ron also hears that there is a 2.4 GHz. beacon on but he's not sure of the details.

The Chairman introduced John Goodly, W9JU, President of the Indiana Digital Experimenters Asn. (IDEA). John reported that trying to coordinate packet in Indiana (Chairman's note: Their responsibility, not our Council) is a real problem. There is little coordination going on, and more effort needs to be put into coordinating with other States. Packet must have the ability to flow messages State-to-State. There is activity around GLNET implementation on 445.000 in Anderson and Central Michigan.

The Chairman reported the effort made by Bob Shelton, K9IND, to get the Bill thru the State Legislature that would provide residential rates for telephone lines for repeaters in commercial buildings didn't make it out of the Senate Committee. There continues to be an opening for a 2 meter coordinator to replace Walt if someone is interested and qualified. We also have a plan to reduce Walt's workload. We have had several volunteers for the 440 Coordinators spot, all of whom were well qualified. One was selected by the officers, Coordinators, & Technical Committee, but since he hasn't been officially contacted the name won't be announced yet. Mail can continue to go thru Dick. The Membership total has dropped slightly because some members have forgotten to send in their renewals. He is trying to get a reminder out on a quarterly basis. We continue to send our mailing to all known repeater sponsors, and we ask all members to check with their sponsor friends to make certain they are getting our mailings. Our Council has joined MACC and continue to participate in that organization.

The issue of Bandplans was addressed by the Chairman. He passed out copies of the existing Bandplans and Coordination Policy for everyone to review. If the Council decides to modify these plans it should be after careful consideration and input from the membership. In a future mailing we will distribute potential changes based upon recommendations

from our members, MACC, and our neighboring States. The membership is asked to think about changes that might be desirable for future discussion and possible action at the November meeting. Additionally we'd like input from the ATV'ers with regard to any potential changes in Coordination Standards for ATV repeaters.

With regard to the importance of repeater coordination and the need to be assured that new hams are aware of the functions of the Council, the Chairman asked everyone to discuss council activities at their Club meetings. It was also recommended by a member that a package be developed for inclusion in code and theory classes that are given throughout the State-perhaps about 15 minutes.

It was mentioned that one solution to making room for additional repeaters on our full bands would be to implement a Subaudible Tone Plan. In California and New York some areas have as many as 3 repeaters in the same area on the same frequency with different PL's. Such stacking would not seem necessary in Indiana at present, but subaudible use, which is available on most radios now sold, would allow repeaters to be spaced closer together. Walt also mentioned that this concept could be applied to closed repeaters by putting them all on a common frequency. Transmitting subaudible on the repeater output is a useful, low cost feature now that can get users accustomed to the usefulness of PL.

The next Council meeting will be held at the Fort Wayne Hamfest in November. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 14:30.

40 Present

For the Secretary,
Steve Riley, WA9CWE